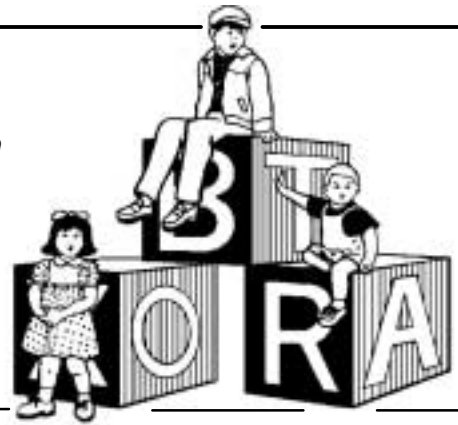


Building Blocks to Safety

A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries.



North Dakota Department of Health

Summer 2002

Division of Maternal and Child Health



Insect Bites and Stings



Your child's reaction to a bite or sting will depend on his sensitivity to the particular insect's venom.

While most children have only mild reactions, those who are allergic to certain insect venoms can have severe symptoms that require emergency treatment. Preventing all insect bites is impossible, but you can minimize the number your child receives by following these guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics:

- Avoid areas where insects nest or congregate, such as garbage cans, stagnant pools of water, uncovered foods and sweets, orchards and gardens where flowers are in bloom.
- When you know your child will be exposed to insects, dress him in long pants and a lightweight long-sleeved shirt.
- Avoid dressing your child in clothing with bright colors or flowery prints because they seem to attract insects.
- Don't use scented soaps, perfumes or hair sprays on your child because they also are inviting to insects.

Insect repellants are generally available without a prescription, but they should be used sparingly on infants and young children. The most effective insecticides include DEET (diethyltoluamide). Repellents appropriate for use on children should contain no more than 10 percent DEET because the chemical, which is absorbed through the skin, can

cause harm. The concentration of DEET varies significantly from product to product, so read the label of any product you purchase. Repellents are effective in preventing bites by mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, chiggers and biting flies, but have virtually no effect on stinging insects such as bees, hornets and wasps.

As a treatment to relieve the itchiness that accompanies bites by mosquitos, flies, fleas and bed-bugs, apply calamine lotion freely onto any part of your child's body except around his eyes and genitals. If a wasp stings your child or bee, soak a cloth in cold water and press it over the area of the sting to reduce pain and swelling.

The quick removal of a bee stinger will prevent a large amount of venom from being pumped into the skin. If the stinger is visible, remove it by gently scraping it off horizontally with a credit card or your fingernail. Bee stings and mosquito bites may be more swollen on the second or third day after the incident.

Keep your child's fingernails short and clean to minimize the risk of infection from scratching. If infection does occur, the bite will become redder, larger and more swollen. In some cases, you may notice red streaks or yellowish fluid near the bite. Have your doctor examine any infected bite because it may need to be treated with antibiotics.

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Insect Bites and Stings, continued



Call for medical help immediately if your child has any of these symptoms after being bitten or stung:

- Sudden difficulty in breathing
- Weakness, collapse or unconsciousness

- Hives or itching all over the body
- Extreme swelling near the eye, lips or penis that makes it difficult for the child to see, eat or urinate.



Pool Safety Tips

The following are safety tips recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. More information about pool safety can be found at www.aap.org.

- Never leave children alone in or near a pool, even for a moment.
- Make sure adults who are watching young children in a pool know CPR and can rescue a child if necessary.
- Keep rescue equipment (a shepherd's hook — a long pole with a hook on the end — and life preserver) and a telephone near a pool.
- Avoid inflatable swimming aids such as "floaties." They are not a substitute for approved life vests and can give children a false sense of security.
- Children are not developmentally ready for swimming lessons until after their fourth birthday.
- Swimming programs for children younger than 4 should not be seen as a way to decrease the risk of drowning.
- Whenever infants or toddlers are in or around water, an adult should be within arm's length, providing "touch supervision."



Beware of Garage Sales This Summer!

Many old items bought at flea markets and garage sales were made before safety standards were introduced. Find out why the following used products are dangerous to you:

- Cribs
- Children's clothing
- Hair dryers
- Halogen floor lamps
- Playpens and play yards
- Car seat carriers
- Bunk beds
- Toy basketball nets
- Accordion-style safety gates
- And more!

Log on to www.cpsc.gov to find information about these and other dangerous products!

Visit the following websites for more information about product safety and injury prevention:

www.cpsc.gov
<http://www.health.state.nd.us>

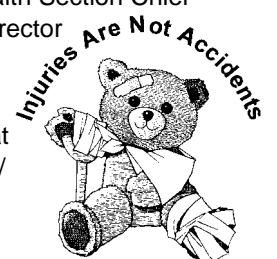
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This newsletter can be accessed at
[www.health.state.nd.us/ndhd/pubs/index.htm#Building Blocks](http://www.health.state.nd.us/ndhd/pubs/index.htm#Building%20Blocks)



Soap-Making Kit Recalled

CPSC and Rose Art Industries are recalling about 124,000 soap-making kits. The soap may get too hot when heated in the microwave oven and leak from the plastic container, posing a burn hazard to children.



The kit is sold in a cardboard box with model number 4054 or in a plastic case with model number 4121 on the packaging. The model number is located on the upper right-hand corner on the front of the package. Each kit includes bars of soap, molds and a plastic cup to melt soap chunks. Toy and discount stores including Toys R Us, Wal-Mart, Kaybee Toys, Target and Value City sold these kits nationwide between August 1997 and December 2001.



Consumers should stop using the kits immediately and contact Rose Art at 800.272.9667 for more information about how to receive a full refund and an additional Rose Art product item at no charge.

Preventing Dog Bites

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that nearly 2 percent of the U.S. population is bitten by a dog each year. This translates to more than 4.7 million people per year, most of whom are children. The following tips can help prevent dog bites:

- If you are getting a pet as a companion for your child, wait until your child is mature enough to handle and care for the animal. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends around age 5 or 6.
- Never leave your infant or young child alone with any dog.
- Teach your child some basic safety precautions for dealing with dogs outside your home, such as not surprising or scaring a dog or never approaching an unfamiliar dog.
- Instruct your child to stand still if approached or chased by a strange dog. Tell your child not to run, kick or make threatening gestures. Your child should face the dog and back away slowly until he or she is out of reach.
- Contact your doctor whenever your child receives an animal bite that breaks the skin, no matter how minor the injury appears. The doctor will need to check whether your child has been adequately immunized against tetanus.

Portable Basketball Hoops Recalled

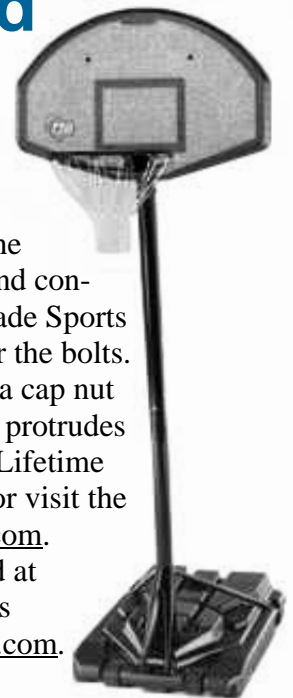
Lifetime Products Inc. and Escalade Sports are recalling about 1.7 million portable basketball hoops. The basketball hoops may have a sharp protruding bolt on the players' side of the pole that can cause serious leg or body lacerations to consumers when the bolt is exposed.

All Lifetime portable basketball system models, except the "Quick Court," are included in the recall. The Escalade Sports basketball hoop models included in the recall are the Harvard, The Big Easy, B3100, B3301, B3302, B3303, B3304, B3305, B3306, B3403, B3500, Spalding, The Big Easy B3402 and Apex B9995, Mini Court, and Alley Court.

Sporting goods, department and toy stores including Wal-Mart, Kmart, Target and Toys R Us nationwide sold the Lifetime basketball hoops between January

1994 and July 2000 and the Escalade Sports basketball hoops between March 1994 and December 2001.

Consumers should stop using the basketball hoops immediately and contact Lifetime Products or Escalade Sports to receive free cap nuts to cover the bolts. Consumers should call and get a cap nut regardless of whether their bolt protrudes or not. Consumers can contact Lifetime Products Inc. at 800.225.3865 or visit the firm's website at www.lifetime.com. Escalade Sports can be reached at 800.467.1397 or visit the firm's website at www.escaladesports.com.



Toy Planes Recalled



The CPSC and Spin Master Toys are recalling about 137,000 Firestormer and Skyblazer toy planes. The plastic air intake chamber of the air-powered toy planes can burst, throwing plastic pieces that pose a laceration, bruise and abrasion danger to consumers.

The recalled Firestormer plane is either red or blue in color with a flame graphic across the body and "Firestormer" printed on the plane's wings. The Skyblazer plane is purple, green and white in color and has "Skyblazer" printed on its wings. These toys use a hand-pump mechanism to compress air to make the plane fly.

The planes have an eight-digit date code on the bottom of the pump. The date code reads MM/DD/YY-KS. Only planes with date codes 12/29/01-KS through 03/24/02-KS are included in the recall.

Hobby shops and department stores nationwide, including Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, Target and K-mart, sold these planes between January 2002 and May 20, 2002. Consumers should stop using the planes immediately and contact Spin Master Toys at 800.622.8339 for a replacement plane.

Snuggle Bears Recalled

Unilever Home and Personal Care USA and CPSC are recalling about 4 million plush Snuggle® bears. The eyes and noses of these bears can come off, posing a choking hazard to young children.

The plush, cream-colored bears come in three sizes: a 5-inch bean bear, an 8-inch bean bear and a 10-inch stuffed bear. All the bears have tags that read "Snuggle®" and "Made in China."

Grocery and discount department stores nationwide sold the Snuggle fabric softener that included the 5-inch and 8-inch bears between May 1999 and July 2001. Some of the 5-inch bears were given away to consumers who sent in two proofs of purchase for Snuggle fabric softener between November 2001 and December 2001. The 10-inch bears were distributed from May 1997 through May 1998 to consumers who sent in a proof of purchase for Snuggle fabric softener and up to \$4.

Consumers should take these bears away from young children immediately and contact Unilever Home and Personal Care USA for information about how to receive a coupon for free Snuggle fabric softener. Contact Snuggle at 800.896.9479 anytime, or visit its website at www.Snuggletime.com.



Mark Your Calendar!

The North Dakota Department of Health and the North Dakota Department of Transportation will sponsor an Injury Prevention and Traffic Safety Conference Nov. 4 through 6, 2002, at the Doublewood Inn, Bismarck, N.D.

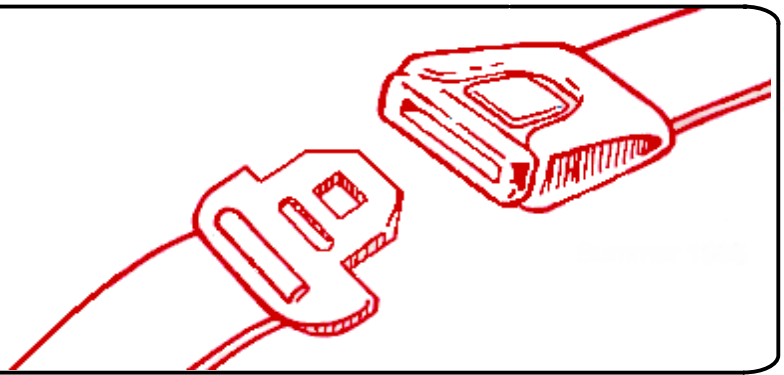
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The Buckle Update



Evenflo Triumph Convertible Car Seats Recalled



NHTSA and Evenflo Company have recalled Evenflo Triumph convertible car seats made from Oct. 20, 2001, through Jan. 31, 2002. Certain components in the harness system may not meet design specifications and may not be strong enough to secure the occupant in the event of a crash.

Owners of this car seat should contact Evenflo at 1.800.425.1967 or log on to www.triumphcarseat.com (click on the "Registration" link) for a free upgrade kit with easy-to-follow installation instructions. They should continue using the car seat while waiting to receive and install the repair kit.



Graco Infant Seats Recalled

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Graco Children's Products announce the recall of 918,830 SnugRide infant car seats equipped with a base and manufactured between Aug. 31, 1999, and Feb. 2002.

A number of the infant car seats may have missing components on the base or seat. The components are metal hooks and U bars that are used to attach the carrier to the base. If the hardware is missing, the carrier may not be attached securely to the base and may detach in a sudden stop or crash.

The models are:

7493G9	7493RS	7497HL	7497SY	7499LK	7499N2
841101	841102	841103	841203	8412T02	8457D5
8457DBV	8457F3	8457GP	8457IND	8457MA	8457MV
8457RG	8457TMJ	8457TMP	8457YL	8458A5	8458AE
8458B7	8458D8	8458FKB	8458HE	8458HH	8458KY
8458N5	8459VL	8460LV	8462HAV	8462JAM	8471UVB
8472BLW	8472BRN	8472CYP	8472GMP	8472MAD	8472YL
8474HAB	8474MEL	8476Vin	8477HAV	8744JAM	8477NGS
8478SAR					

Consumers should call Graco at 1.800.664.5246 with the model name, number and date of manufacturer. They should continue using the car seat, **but without the base.**

Safety 1st and Beatrix Potter Infant Car Seats Recalled

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, NHTSA, and Dorel Juvenile Group announce the recall of 26,000 Safety 1st and Beatrix Potter "Designer 22" infant car seats/carriers. When the seat is used as a carrier, the plastic handle can release unexpectedly from the carrying position. When this happens, an unrestrained infant can fall out of the seat.

The recalled seats were made between Jan. 3, 2002, and Feb. 13, 2002. Only model numbers and color codes 02-621-SAL, 02-620-AZY and 02-620-BEA are included in this recall. The model number and date

of manufacture are located on the instruction and warning label on the side of the car seat.

Owners of the recalled seats can continue using them as car seats **but should stop using them as carriers immediately.**

Consumers should contact Dorel Juvenile Group to receive a free repair kit at 1.800.536.1090 or at their website, www.djgusa.com.



Children At-Risk in Rear Seats of Small Pickups

A study from the Partners for Child Passenger Safety Project has concluded that children riding in the back seats of compact extended-cab pickup trucks have a much higher risk of significant injury than children in rear seats of larger extended-cab pickups and other passenger vehicles. The risk in full-size extended cabs generally is comparable to passenger cars.

The project, a collaborative effort of Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania and State Farm Insurance, examined crashes involving children in post-1989 State Farm-insured vehicles in 15 states and the District of Columbia.

The two-year study found that children in compact extended-cab pickups were nearly three times more likely to be injured in a crash and more than four times more likely to be hospitalized than were children riding in other vehicles.

The project highlighted unique hazards of compact

extended-cab pickups that put children at risk:

- The rear occupant compartment is smaller than that of conventional vehicles.
- The rear seats often provide lap-only seat belts that allow for dangerous upper body movement in a crash.
- The rear occupant compartment often has sideways-facing (jump) seats. Child restraints should not be installed on side-facing seats.
- The increased risk may indicate inadequate vehicle padding.

The study recommends that parents with a choice of vehicles available to transport children should not use compact pickup trucks. State Farm records show that about 75 percent of clients who own a compact extended-cab pickup also own another vehicle, indicating they have an alternative means of transporting their children.

Economic Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes

According to a report issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the economic impact of motor vehicle crashes on America's roadways has reached \$230.6 billion a year, or an average of \$820 for every person living in the United States.

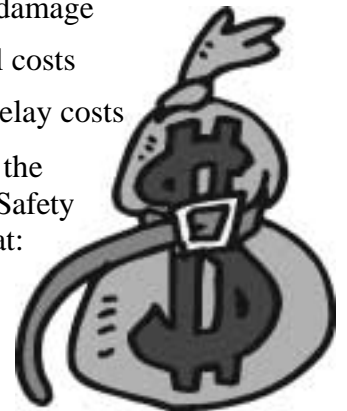
The report, based on year 2000 data, calculates the costs of an average fatality at \$977,000 and estimates the costs associated with a critically injured crash survivor at \$1.1 million.

The study highlights the importance of seat belt use. In one year, the use of seat belts prevents an estimated 11,900 fatalities and 325,000 serious injuries, saving \$50 billion in medical care, lost productivity and other injury-related costs. Conversely, the failure of crash victims to wear seat belts leads to an estimated 9,200 unnecessary fatalities and 143,000 needless injuries, costing society \$26 billion.

The report, titled "The Economic Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes 2000," also estimates the yearly economic cost of roadway crashes to include:

- \$61 billion in lost workplace productivity
- \$20.2 billion in lost household productivity
- \$59 billion in property damage
- \$32.6 billion in medical costs
- \$25.6 billion in travel delay costs

The report is available on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website at: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>.



Mark Your Calendar

Child Passenger Safety Course, Sept. 17–20, 2002, Minot. This 32-hour course allows participants to become certified as child passenger safety technicians. For more information, contact Dawn Mayer at 1.800.472.2286 (press 1).

